

from a garden in Roop Nagar on the outskirts of Jammu city. As this species has not been reported from Jammu Province earlier, this is a new record.

Gude (1914) reported *Opeas gracile* (Hutton) from Kashmir without giving its exact distribution in the region. The present report extends the range of the species as well as of the Family Subulinidae to Jammu Province for the first time, as *Opeas gracile* (Hutton) is the sole representative of Subulinidae in this region.

We thank Shri. S.C. Mitra, Asst. Zoologist and Officer-in-Charge, Mollusca Sect., Zoological Soc. of India SI, Kolkata for confirming the identity of the specimen.

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SURENDRA NATH
SUNITA

Department of Zoology,
Government Camp College for Kashmir Migrants,
P.B. 140, G.P.O. Jammu (Tawi) 180 001,
Jammu & Kashmir, India.

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30. EXTENSION OF DISTRIBUTION OF THE THOMISID SPIDER *PLATYTHOMISUS SUDEEPI* BISWAS, THOMISIDAE: ARANEAE, FROM NORTH KANARA, KARNATAKA

Thomisid spiders, commonly known as crab-spiders, have been studied by Tikader (1960-95). His work on the FAUNA OF INDIA, THOMISIDAE (PT. 1) (1980) covers 115 species under 25 genera nominated, so far, from the Indian subcontinent. *Platythomisus sudeepi* Biswas, an uncommon Thomisid spider, was identified on the basis of a fine photograph by Ashok Captain. The identification was made with the keys, descriptions and illustrations from this FAUNA (pp. 172-174).

The type locality for *P. sudeepi* Biswas is Pollibetta, Coorg district, Karnataka (15° 12' N, 75° 80' E). The types (2 ♀ ♀) of this species have been deposited in the National Collection, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata. The description given in the FAUNA tallies with the photograph, except for the red abdominal colour as against the deep brown, and three conspicuous black bands, which also vary in size and shape. The photograph was taken at Castle Rock, North Kanara, Karnataka near the state border of Goa (14° 28' N, 74° 20' E), c. 280-300 km north of the type locality.

The genus *Platythomisus* Dolesch constitutes only two nominated species: *Platythomisus bazarus* Tikader from Nayabazar, West Sikkim and *P. sudeepi* Biswas from Pollibetta, Coorg, Karnataka in India. The present report from North Kanara is the second report of

this Indomalayan genus from the Western Ghats and reduces the vast gap between the two earlier records.

The Thomisids are non-orb-weaving jumping spiders that hunt their prey by direct attacks through the foliage and flowers and mainly devour diurnal insects. They move their legs, specially the first two pairs, sideways like crabs; their bodies are also dorsoventrally flattened, due to which they are termed crab-spiders. They usually possess bright and beautiful body colouration (Tikader 1980), which varies greatly even within the same species in the same locality. The body colours in Arachnids depend upon the nature of their food (insects and other invertebrates).

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D.B. BASTAWADE
KRUSHNAMEGH KUNTE
ASHOK CAPTAIN
Zoological Survey of India,
Western Regional Station,
Akurdi, Pune 411 044,
Maharashtra, India.

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